United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Office of Public Affairs
Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

Illinois, Indiana
Michigan, Minnesota
Ohio, Wisconsin

U.S. EPA to Expand Eagle-Picher Residential Property Investigation

Delta, Ohio **April 2001**

This Fact Sheet Will Tell You:

- How potential areas of contamination will be identified, surveyed, and sampled.
- How to get more information.
- The next steps.

For More Information

You may review detailed information about the Eagle-Picher site at the information repository. The repositoy is located at:

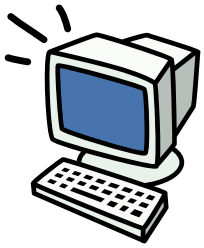
Delta Public Library
402 Main Street
Delta, OH

Web Site

This and additional updates can also be found on the following web site:

www.epa.gov/region5/sites/

Scroll through the list of sites to find Eagle-Picher.



Introduction

The Eagle-Picher facility (202 Van Buren Street, Delta, Ohio) occupies 5.2 acres of land on the eastern edge of Delta. Since, 1927, the facility has manufactured bronze metal alloys. From 1967 to 1989, the facility was owned and operated by Eagle-Picher Industries, who sold the facility to its current owner and operator, Bunting Bearing Corporation.

Metal alloys produced at the facility contained various amounts of copper, tin, zinc, and lead. During its years of operation, hazardous substances were emitted directly from the plant into the air. Contaminated wastewater may have been discharged also from the facility into Fewless Creek. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) initiated air monitoring in 1985 and the facility has been in compliance with Federal Air Quality standards ever since. In 1985 and 1995 the Ohio EPA found elevated levels of hazardous substances in soil samples it collected from residential properties near the facility and from Fewless Creek.

Manufacturing processes at the facility included the use of sand. The waste sand would have contained copper, lead, tin, and zinc. Since 1998, Eagle-Picher Industries, Inc. has been doing an investigation and cleanup of the facility and residential properties immediately nearby. However, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) recently learned that some of this waste foundry sand was used as fill on additional residential properties. U.S. EPA will be investigating properties in Delta to determine the level and extent of contamination. Approximately 20-25 residential properties are scheduled to be surveyed and/or sampled, depending on resident participation. Four areas within Delta have been initially identified for sampling. These areas are identified on the map on page 3.

Identification and Characterization Activities

U.S. EPA has begun a process to find and learn more about the presence and extent of contaminated foundry sand at residential properties. This process, called investigation and characterization, is outlined in U.S. EPA's "work plan" and is designed to answer these questions:

- Where is the contaminated foundry sand?
- What is the physical extent (area and depth) of contaminated foundry sand at each location?
- What are the levels of lead in the sand and surrounding soil?
- Are there any health concerns related to the material?

The work plan details each step in the identification and characterization process, how each potential location will be surveyed, what type of equipment is best to use, procedures for collecting and storing samples, the number and type of samples to collect, instructions to the laboratory, and quality assurance/quality control procedures to ensure that the results are accurate and precise.

Sampling Process

The sampling process will use three types of devices which give increasingly specific information. First, an electric or electro-magnetic profiling device will be used to determine the potential location and amount of foundry sand. The exact device used will depend on the soil and other conditions at each location. One type of device that may be used is a ground penetrating radar (GPR) system. This system sends a low-power beam into the soil, which bounces back and identifies differences in soil types.

Do You Know If Foundry Sand Was Placed on Your Property?

If you have reason to believe that foundry sand from the Eagle-Picher facility is on your property, contact U.S. EPA:

Susan Pastor (800) 621-8431, ext. 31325 or
Matt Ohl (800) 621-4442, ext. 64442

For each potential location, U.S. EPA will then use a device called a hydraulic punch in which a hollow plastic tube of about 1 inch in diameter and 2 to 4 feet in length is pushed into the ground. This device removes a long, thin, circular section of soil, which can be easily sampled. Soil extracted with the hydraulic punch will be screened on the spot using a portable tool called an x-ray fluorescence (XRF) instrument. The XRF will provide a general indication of the levels of metals in the sample. More precise levels will be obtained by sending a number of samples to a U.S. EPA-approved laboratory.

Next Steps

U.S. EPA has already done a visual inspection of potential locations of foundry sand to help identify potential locations where it is suspected that material had been used as fill.

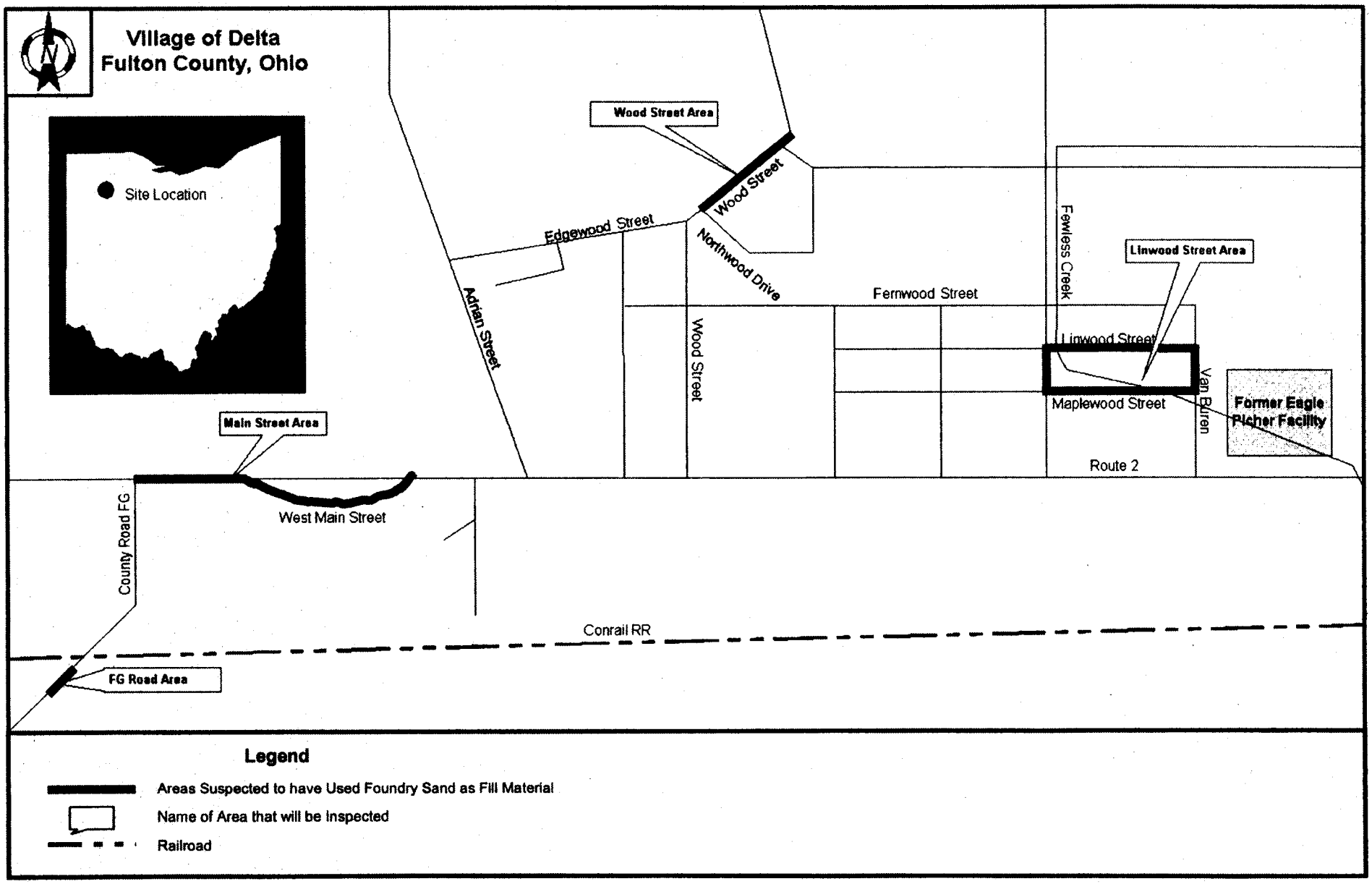
The investigation and characterization process will begin about April 30 with project set up. This involves bringing in trailers to serve as mobile offices and connecting phone lines and electricity to serve these offices. Once offices are set up, potential locations of foundry sand will be identified and characterized through various measurements and samplings according to the approved work plan.

A technician uses a hydraulic punch similar to what may be used in Delta.

To shorten the standard time to receive the laboratory results (two weeks is the standard laboratory turn-around time), U.S. EPA has directed the laboratory to immediately begin processing the samples and expediting the analysis of each sample in one to three days. The laboratory data will be checked for accuracy before delivery to U.S. EPA, Ohio EPA, and the Ohio and Fulton County Health Departments.

This summer the laboratory quality assurance procedures will be completed, the results compiled, and delivered to U.S. EPA, state, and local agencies. Residents should receive the results of samples collected on their properties soon after the health departments complete their evaluations.

When the extent of contamination and potential health risks are understood, U.S. EPA, Ohio EPA, and the Ohio and Fulton County Health Departments will work together to initiate the necessary steps to reduce any threats to human health posed by these contaminants. The need for cleanup will be based on potential health risks at each location, and additional information will be provided to residents by U.S. EPA if any cleanup is warranted. Each property will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, as results become available. If the sampling indicates a potential health issue, U.S. EPA, Ohio EPA, and the Ohio and Fulton County Health Departments will work together on the quickest and most appropriate course of action.


Village of Delta
Fulton County, Ohio
Site Location
Wood Street Area
Wood Street
Edgewood Street
Northwood Drive
Adrian Street
Wood Street
Fernwood Street
Fewless Creek
Linwood Street Area
Linwood Street
Maplewood Street
Van Buren
Former Eagle Picher Facility
Route 2
Main Street Area
West Main Street
County Road FG
Conrail RR
FG Road Area
Legend
Areas Suspected to have Used Foundry Sand as Fill Material
Name of Area that will be Inspected
Railroad

Contact Information

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